

ALTERNATIVE D - MAXIMUM SITE USE

OBJECTIVES:

Fulfill the evaluation criteria to the greatest extent practicable without imposing unreasonably costly reclamation measures on Anaconda.

Accomodate the following land uses:

FUTURE LAND USES:

Livestock grazing, construction, and use of commercial and industrial facilities such as office space, light manufacturing and storage, recreation, and additional mining activities.

Specifically excluded are habitation and farming.

RECLAMATION MEASURES:

OPEN PITS:

Backfill to ten feet above the groundwater recovery level (as determined by the EIS Task Force).

Use waste dumps H and J, excess material obtained from the sloping of waste piles, and other non-hazardous material from waste dumps as backfill.

Cover the backfill material with one foot of topsoil.

Buttress the west side of the Gavilon Mesa highwall (the top of the highwall may be cut back by blasting).

Slope the North Paguate highwall to a 3 to 1 slope, and cover with two feet of topsoil.

Scale all other highwalls.



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POL-EPA01-0007266

PROTORE STOCKPILES:

Return all protore to the open pits above the groundwater recovery level.

Cover the piles with four feet of non-hazardous material, and one foot of topsoil.

WASTE PILES:

Relocate dumps H and J to the open pits as backfill material.

Cover dumps that contain hazardous material on their outer surface with four feet of non-hazardous material, and two feet of topsoil.

Cover dumps that do not contain hazardous material on their outer surface with two feet of topsoil.

Leave previously topsoiled and revegetated dumps undisturbed (except to reseed, as necessary).

Reduce all dump slopes to a 3 to 1 grade, and contour furrow.

SITE STABILITY AND DRAINAGE:

Remove all protore and waste material that lies within 200 feet of the Rio Paguete and Rio Moquino. Return the Rio Moquino to its pre-mining gradient and sinuosity using rip rap, gabion structures, and drop structures as necessary. Construct a levee along the north side of the Rio Paguete to prevent the flooding on the North Paguete Pit.

Construct a series of sediment traps in all major arroyos that have the potential of encroaching upon waste dumps.

Construct a series of micro-basins within each open pit (approximately 10 per pit).

Construct erosion control berms on the perimeter of all waste piles. Construct a series of erosion control berms on the top of all waste piles to hold surface runoff.

Remove waste dump J and protore stockpiles 17-BC and 6-B to unblock the ephemeral drainage on the south side of the mine. The two blocked drainages on the north and south sides of Gavilon Mesa will remain blocked. The remainder of the site will drain to the Rio Paguete and Rio Moquino.

Modify waste dumps as previously discussed.

STRUCTURES:

Construct a cement bulkhead 680 feet below the collar of the P-10 decline, and backfill to the surface. Backfill vent holes with waste to within ten feet of the surface, and place a ten foot cement surface plug. All other mine entries would be covered by backfilling or have been previously plugged.

Remove crusher, tipple, and all other mining equipment.

Clean up radiological hot spots along the rail spur until values of twice background are achieved. Remove the Quirk loading dock. Leave the rail spur intact.

Clear the four main roads on the site, and the parking areas for the geology building, Open Pit Offices, P-10 mine buildings, New Shop, and Old Shop of radiologically contaminated material until values of twice background are achieved. These roads and parking areas will remain. Clear all other roads and associated structures of radiologically contaminated material until values of twice background are achieved, and recontour these areas to conform to the surrounding terrain.

Leave all power lines intact.

Remove all pumps and cap all water wells.

Clean up the P-10 mine buildings, New Shop, Old Shop, geology buildings, and the Open Pit Offices until radiological values of twice background are achieved. Leave these buildings and their sewage systems intact. Remove all other buildings, including the employee housing and powder magazine.

REVEGETATION:

Obtain topsoil from the four existing topsoil stockpiles, and from the topsoil borrow areas along the Rio Moquino, and from the east side of Gavilon Mesa. Place one foot of topsoil on all backfill material, and two feet on all waste dumps.

Revegetate all disturbed areas to approximate the species density and diversity of the surrounding undisturbed land. Revegetate with predominantly native grasses and shrubs that are conducive to the grazing of livestock.

Prevent grazing for three years following reclamation. Grazing managed by the Pueblo of Laguna and Bureau of Indian Affairs after three years.

MONITORING:

Continue monitoring (by Anaconda) of surface water, groundwater, air quality, subsidence, revegetation success, concentration of toxic elements in revegetation species for a period of five years following the completion of reclamation activities. Subsequent monitoring to be performed by the Department of the Interior.

The Minerals Management Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs would monitor every aspect of the reclamation activities to assure

compliance with all reclamation requirements. The Pueblo of Laguna and Bureau of Indian Affairs would control future land use on the site, and would prevent any uses not provided for by this reclamation alternative.